(d) whether Government propose to dispense with engaging of privatee advertising agencies and use DAVP or its own staff for their advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE *MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS* (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement in the telecommunication system

1371. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Wil the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecommunication system in several parts of the country is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No Sir. The Telecom system in the country is generally functioning satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, for further improvement of this telecom system the following action are taken under Mission-Better communications:

(i) Replacement of old life expire electromechanical system.

(ii) Replacement of wornout and faulty under ground cables.

(iii) Replacement of old telephone instruments.

(iv) Replacement and heavy overhead lines by under ground cables.

(v) Provision of drop wire for subscriber line.

(vi) Introduction of electronic exchanges in different places of the country.

(vii) Introduction of stable transmission medium such as mircowave, coaxial cables, optical fibre cables for connecting different parts of the country.

(viii) Provision of customers oriented training to the staff.

Ban on Import of Rifampicin

1372. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3206 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry took a specific decision not to allow the import of Rifampicin even if the foreign exchange of the order of 60 per kg. is being fritted away;

(b) if so, when was this decision taken and with whose approval;

(c) whether it is a fact that decision to allow 20 per cent import has been reversed; and

(d) if so, when and on what basis and what is the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The import policy for any drug is based on factors like indigenous availability, demand etc. The imports were restricted in consideration of these factors by the department on August, 1987.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Import of intermediate is not monitored by this Ministry.